Confidential collection No 41 of 37-3

years 1937-38
CB. 93-37-107
B. feb 1938

subject: Copy of letter written by
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
to Sri. K. Chengalraya Reddy

→

CONFIDENTIAL.

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B 7 of 38

General and Revenue
Secretariat.

Confidential Branch.

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PREVIOUS REFERENCES.	LATER REFERENCES.

WD 2789—GPB—500—16-4-30

D.O. No.

F. A. HAMILTON, Esq., C.I.E.,
Inspector-General of Police
in Mysore.

CS 93-37-107

BANGALORE

February 3, 1938.

Dear Mr. Kesavaiengar,

I am enclosing herewith, for the information of Government, a copy of a letter purporting to have been written by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Mr. K. Changalaraya Reddi sometime about the middle of last month.

Yours sincerely,

F. A. Hamilton

Spl 3/2 MM 3/1/38

Secret Dewan

MM 3/2/38

B.T. Kesavaiengar, Esq., B.A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore.

Dear Mr. K.C. Reddy,

In receipt of your letter and pamphlet/ called "Repression in Mysore".

The pamphlet/ is, no doubt, a comprehensive one cataloguing the number of prohibitory orders issued by the Government at various places in the State, both against congressmen in Mysore and some in British India. I am not able to get an ~~xxxxx~~ exact idea of the nature of the orders and the circumstances under which those orders were issued. It is obvious from the fuscicle/ of prohibitory orders, that those orders were promulgated mostly against persons who belong to Mysore and on some from British India, most of them are considered as left wing in Indian National Congress. It is a fact, I hope you are also aware of it, that such orders of that character were issued almost invariably upon all of us by Government in British India and therefore I am not surprised.

While appreciating the efforts of the Mysore State Congress Board in compiling those orders, I would ask you to concentrate your attention to diagonise what I consider to be most important, namely, the nature of the order, against whom it was promulgated, under what circumstances and by whom. I do agree with you that some of the orders were full of flaw in legal sense, but it does not obviate the responsibility of Mysore State Congress Board.

I want to drive home one fact - rather important and significant fact --that you in Mysore have much freedom to do your propaganda, while some of the States in Northern India are even denied the ordinary civil liberties. I think it is appropriate to narrate one incident ~~xxxx~~ which happened in one State in Northern India, but for some reasons I am not in a position to disclose the name of the State, ~~and~~ where the citizens are being treated worse than criminals and live ~~like~~ stock. Therefore, I think you are in a better position to strengthen your organisation and constitute a net-work of organisations throughout the State conducted in an efficient manner. When once you organise, it will considerably help you in initiating any course of action that may be deemed fit accord-

-ing to the circumstances.

Personally I think there is no such repression, as you are making out through your pamphlet. It is nothing after all when compared with powerful organised and systematic attack of Government in British India against the Congress. By this I do not mean to discourage your activities, but what I wanted to impress you is to carry on your activities against odds.

From the talks I had with some of the leaders in South India, I was able to get an idea of your work in the State and also the attitude of the Government of Mysore. You may have your own Maharaja and more than that your own Dewan, who is a Mysorean like yourself. You can discuss with him and ascertain from him what exactly is the attitude of the Government instead of enlisting the sympathy and support of the outside leaders. After all what can the outside leaders can do? When once the issues are narrowed down, there is no necessity for an outsider much less the Indian National Congress to interfere. Therefore I request you to chalk out a comprehensive programme of the State Congress Board and to educate the public.

Another aspect which I wanted to impress on you is this; Do not indulge in personalities. Your fight is and should be against the system of Government and not against any particular individual. There is no use of complaining that this particular Dewan is doing all these things and therefore we want your help. There is no meaning in such kind of statement which is not at all becoming to an organisation of your stature. After all, your Dewan is the head of the administration and he has to carry out the policy as laid down by the Maharaja. When once the Government feel that there is some truth in your propaganda and that your organisation has the support of the public, there should inevitably be a conciliatory policy. But so long as the Government do not heed to your wishes -- that seems to be fact from what you say-- then there should (radically be something wrong with your activities. When once you descend to indulge in personalities your movement, however lofty it may be, is bound to fail.

As regards your suggestion to amend the constitution of the Congress with regard to the Indian States, I wish to say that it is too big a question for me to say anything off-hand. Anything I say is bound to have some repercussions as it emanates from the head of the Congress and not as an individual who is voicing his own opinion. Furthermore those points are to be discussed first by the Working Committee and then by A.I.C.C.

Copy
Dear 3/2

CB 1588

The Palace,

Mysore, 5th February 1938.

HUZUR SECRETARY MYSORE

DEWAN'S OFFICE
7 FEB. 1938
No. M.S. 1092

My dear Sir Mirza Ismail,

I am directed to return herewith with thanks copy of letter written by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Mr.K.Chengalaraya Reddi. It has been submitted to His Highness.

Yours sincerely,

N. Madhava Rao

Chief Secy

6-2-38

Confl B